

State Senator
Steve Cassano's
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Please utilize my office if you have questions, issues or concerns regarding a state agency or program. Call me at:

1-860-240-5302

Visit my website to reach me via e-mail:

www.SenatorCassano.cga.ct.gov

Other Helpful phone number:

INFOLINE (community services)..... 211

Dept. of Motor Vehicles..... 1-800-842-8222

Renter's Rebate Hotline.....860-418-6377

Consumer Protection

Fraud Hotline..... 1-800-842-2649

Health Care Advocate 1-866-466-4446

"Do Not Call" list 1-888-382-1222

Careline (to report

child abuse or neglect) 1-800-842-2288



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Local Farm Benefits from State Aid

Listening to Tony Botticello at Botticello Farms on Hillstown Road in Manchester. This is the last farm in Manchester, and has been in business for nearly half a century. When severe weather damaged greenhouses and seedling crops in the spring of 2013, Connecticut stepped up with state assistance to help Botticello's. Keeping local businesses vibrant and productive is always at the top of my 'to-do' list.

Your State Senator

Steve Cassano

Representing Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury & Manchester



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Call me @ **860-240-5302**

www.SenatorCassano.cga.ct.gov

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Fighting for Better Water Rates for Glastonbury

After receiving a large number of phone calls from Glastonbury residents about dramatic increases for non-member surcharges on their MDC bills, I spent a good part of the legislative session working on a bill to reduce these charges and give Glastonbury and other non-member MDC towns representation on the MDC board when discussing budgets and policies. The end result will be a big cost savings for Glastonbury residents, more input with the MDC and more transparency in their budget.



Discussing MDC issues with Glastonbury residents Jack Antonich and James LaCroix before a public hearing on the legislation.

Progress at Glastonbury's Riverfront



The changes made to Glastonbury's Riverfront Park over the past several years cannot be overstated. The new athletic fields, dog park and hiking trails will soon be joined by a new boat house (which I was proud to secure \$2.3 million in state funds for), boat launch and other amenities. And just recently we received a state grant for a Legacy Tree Walk to help plant American Sycamore trees along the paths of Riverfront Park beside the Connecticut River. It is an investment for the generations to come!

Investing in Small Businesses

Marcus Communications has been in Manchester for 45 years—and now, with a little bit of state assistance, I predict they will be around for at least another half-century. I recently toured Marcus Communications with owner Bruce Marcus and we talked about how a state grant and loan allowed him to renovate his new manufacturing facility and hire five new employees. Marcus is a leading provider of public safety communications equipment, and its partnership with Connecticut benefits everyone.



Steve Cassano

Committed to Economic Recovery

Since the start of the global economic recession I've made it my mission as your State Senator to help small and mid-size businesses grow, create and retain jobs and put people back to work. As a result of bipartisan legislation, we launched the STEP-Up and Small Business Express programs which have assisted almost 2,000 of Connecticut's small businesses create or preserve more than 17,000 jobs. These initiatives offer job training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and grants for small businesses.

Over the past four years we have created more than 65,000 jobs and our unemployment rate recently fell below 7 percent for the first time since 2009. However, our work is not done.

Looking forward, Connecticut's new partnership with United Technologies Corporation will solidify our position as a world leader in aerospace manufacturing. Most importantly, this agreement has a direct impact on the 75,000 jobs at the thousands of aerospace supply chain companies throughout the state, ensuring they are keeping and creating good-paying jobs with good benefits for men and women in nearly every city and town in Connecticut.



Listening to Gary Bergeron, president of Connecticut Trailers in Bolton, about the Small Business Express loan the company used to finance new inventory, increase its rental fleet and purchase new equipment. Connecticut Trailers is the largest trailer retailer in the Northeast.

Jobs for Veterans

I supported a bill that will remove barriers to entry into the civilian workplace for those who learned employable skills while in the service. This legislation will require state licensing authorities to accept military training and experience, where appropriate, as a substitute for other requirements, and will allow veterans to gain streamlined occupational certifications.



Veterans talk to employers at a Heroes for Hire job fair.

Resources to Grow Jobs

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- ▶ **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress, or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or Michelle.Peters@ct.gov
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: www.stepct.com
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- ▶ **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org
- ▶ Learn more about **Job Growth in Connecticut**: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



A Rebate for Senior Renters

Being able to stay in their own home is a top priority for many senior citizens; however, this is a challenge for those living on a fixed income. In order to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses, we've re-opened the Elderly Renters' Rebate Program. Eligible persons may apply between April 1 and October 1. Questions about the program and payments should be directed to the **Renters' Rebate Hotline** at 860-418-6377.

A Stronger Do Not Call List

Shady telemarketers are increasingly ignoring our "Do Not Call Registry" resulting in unwanted and intrusive telemarketing calls and text messages. As technology evolves it is easier to get around the law and employ high-pressure sales tactics. That's why we passed a law this year to help Connecticut crack down on violators by increasing penalties and eliminating unsolicited text messages.

A Smart Start for Our Kids

Recognizing there is no better way to set students on the path to lifelong learning success than a high quality pre-kindergarten experience, we created the Connecticut Smart Start program to provide 50,000 more children access to vital early education in our public schools. Combined with additional slots for private providers, our comprehensive pre-K package will reduce the achievement gap and ensure that all children are ready to learn when they arrive at kindergarten. Every dollar invested in pre-K saves \$7 in avoided special and remedial education and criminal justice costs.



Visiting with some of the four- and five-year old pre-K students at the Manchester Preschool Center.